Executive Summary

West Newton Elementary School
Newton County School System

Dr. Takila L. Curry, Principal
13387 Brown Bridge Rd
Covington, GA 30016-4116
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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.
Description of the School

West Newton Elementary (WNES), located in Newton County Georgia, is a Pre-K through fifth grade school. Newton County is located 40 miles east of Atlanta. Newton is located in a rural area. The current enrollment is 775 students which is an increase of more than 50 students from the 2012-2013 school year. WNES has a diverse population consisting of African-American (68%), Caucasian (10%), Asian (1%), Multi-Racial (3%) and Hispanic (18%) students. Approximately 18% of the students are enrolled in the English Language Learners (ELL) program. WNES is one of 14 elementary schools in the district serving the largest ELL population of 18%. Additional demographics include 209 students (26.9%) being served through the Early Intervention Program, Gifted serves 27 (3.4%) students, Special Education serves 92 students (11.8%), and ELL serves 108 (13.9%). Currently, there are 16 (2%) students being served through 504 plans and 118 (15.2%) students have active RTI (Response to Intervention, Tier 2/Tier 3) files.

Currently, more than 88% of the students participate in the federal free and reduced lunch program. In recent years, the student demographics have shifted from a majority white student population, to a majority non-white student population due to rezoning. Some changes in the student population are reflected in multi-year data sets on enrollment by student groups. WNES offers a variety of academic programs including Special Education, ELL, Gifted Education, the Early Intervention Program, a daily morning ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system) math lab, Flexible Learning Afterschool Program (FLP), High Achievers Program and a county initiated 21st Century afterschool program for all students. Music, Art, P.E., Media and Computer specials are integral parts of the instructional program. The school offers several clubs, such as Chorus, Safety Patrols and Dance teams.

During the 2012-2013 school year WNES had an attendance rate of 94% for the student population. WNES student attendance rate remains steady each year. Currently, West Newton has 100% highly qualified status according to NCLB regulations among teachers and paraprofessionals. West Newton Elementary has 49 certified staff members: two administrators, one full time counselor, a school psychologist, a music teacher, an art teacher, a part time art and music teachers, a physical education teacher, a media specialist, a speech and language pathologist, 3 self-contained special education teachers, two full time ELL teachers, five resource special education teachers, two Pre-K teachers, four full time Early Intervention Program (EIP)/Title I teachers, a gifted teacher, one special needs Pre-K teacher, and 35 regular classroom teachers. West Newton has 18 paraprofessionals and they all meet the Highly Qualified requirements. There are two bilingual teachers. Of the certified staff members, 25 have Bachelor degrees, 14 have Master's degrees, 14 have Specialists degrees, and 1 has a Doctorate degree. Our staff is primarily female, with the exception of 4 males, 3 teachers and 1 paraprofessional. WNES current teacher/student ratio is 25:1.

WNES College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) score for 2012-2013 was 78.6%. The score was compiled from a list of indicators identified in the CCRPI.

Our Parents in Education continue to support our program each year. Publix, Kroger, Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Snapping Shoals EMC and Salem United Methodist Church. Our partners provide book bags and supplies for our students, breakfast for our staff, gift cards for our student of the month programs, donate items for our fall festival and spring flings, provide backpack buddies for our needy families each week, adopt needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

WNES has been impacted by the districts necessary budget cuts. We have had an increase in class size across all grade levels over the past 3 years. WNES has faced numerous challenges. Math has been a constant struggle for our students. WNES implemented a morning math program to help improve math scores, as well as, implemented an afterschool program with a math focus. Since the emphasis has
been placed on math, our math data has improved greatly over the past 3 years. In addition, low parent involvement continues to be a
struggle for our school. However, we continue to communicate with our parents through daily agendas, school messenger, monthly
newsletter, Title I meetings, PTO meetings, School Council Meetings, Facebook, Twitter and posting important messages on our school
marquee.
WNES implemented a "High Achievers" Program for students in 4th and 5th grade. The purpose of the program is to challenge our high
performing students. The students receive weekly services from a Gifted endorsed teacher. WNES implemented a "Bringing Life and
Sciences Together BLAST Science lab in 3rd grade. The purpose of the lab is to incorporate reading, english/language arts, math and hands
on learning in science.
WNES was named a "Focus" School in spring 2011 due to an achievement gap among our white subgroup and students with disabilities
subgroup in the area of math noted in our CRCT data. WNES had to implement a Flexible Learning Plan (FLP) afterschool program to
address the achievement gap amongst our subgroups. The FLP focuses on math and is held from September 2013 until March 2014 every
Tuesday and Thursday, from 2:30pm-4:30pm. Transportation is provided for our students and our staff is paid to teach in the program. Our
"Focus" School status allowed the school to implement two additional computer labs which house 75 computers. The computer labs are
utilized during our FLP program.
School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Schools Purpose
The mission statement of West Newton is to provide an exemplary education for all students. The vision of WNES is to provide a learning environment focused on enabling students to become globally competitive in a constant advancing society. WNES motto is “Every day. Every student. No excuses.” WNES truly believes in the mission and vision that has been created by all stakeholders. WNES has its mission and vision statement posted in our school foyer and throughout our building. WNES staff is constantly seeking opportunities for our students to grow. WNES consistently assesses, analyze, remediate, accelerate, plan and monitor instruction. WNES is always seeking ways to improve upon the practices that we have in place. WNES consistently welcomes parents and their input when it comes to our instructional program.

WNES has a School Council that consists of 5 members and meetings are held 4 times per year. WNES School Council consists of stakeholders that business partners and parents.

WNES has aligned its mission and beliefs with that of our district office. WNES has non-negotiables that have been adopted by the Newton County School System (NCSS) that are used as motivation for us to improve as individual teachers, leaders and students. The non-negotiables are: Increased Student Achievement and More Effective Teaching. The NCSS has given us ways to reach our non-negotiables and that is by technology integration, Building Background Knowledge, Research Based Instructional Strategies and Professional Learning Communities. WNES is committed to improving and allowing these strategies to be utilized as a road map to success for our school.

The following data are being implemented at West Newton to help effectively meet the goals and learning needs of our students, based on our spring formative and summative assessments (CRCT and OAS). The faculty and staff are committed to utilizing best practices and research-based strategies which include, but are not limited to: Marzano's researched based instructional strategies, six step vocabulary process, flexible grouping, power writing and interactive notebooks. The ALEKS program has improved math data among subgroups and is being implemented in grades 3, 4 and 5.
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Grants:
- 2012 Reading is the Way Up- $1,000 towards the purchase of graphic novels for our media center.
- 2013 Recipient of General Mills Grant for the purchase of AHA! Science- $2,245.00
- 2013 Coca Cola Grant - $605.00
- 2013 Snapping Shoals Grant Recipient-Giving Writing a Chance - $1,000.00
- 2011 ING Unsung Heroes - Creating a Recipe Book for English Language Learners and their families $1,000.00
- 2010-2013 21st Century Afterschool Program district Grant ($350,000) - Provide free tutorial services for students based on their academic needs.

Testing Data:
- 92.5% of students in the all subgroup are meeting and exceeding standard in reading in 2013
- 85.6% of students in the all subgroup met or exceeded standard in math (2013). A 14.6% increase over the past 3 years.
- 20% increase in reading over the past 3 years (2011, 2012, 2013) for students with disabilities subgroup
- 89.4% of English Language Learners met or exceeded standard in reading in 2013
- 50% increase in math over the past 3 years (2011-33%, 2012-55%, 2013-83.7%) for the students with disabilities subgroup
- 91.8% of the Hispanic subgroup met or exceeded the standard in math-19% increase over the past 3 years
- 5TH Grade students showed a 15% increase in writing scores from 2011 (68%) to 2012 (83%)

New Programs:
- ING Unsung Heroes Grant for 3rd Grade B.L. A.S.T Lab (Blending life and science together) $1,000.00 (2012)
- High Achievers Program for students who exceeded standard in all academic areas on the CRCT. Students attend classes weekly with a gifted endorsed teacher.
- Morning Math- The program is designed for all students at WNES to enhance math skills from 7:10-8:05 each morning. Students receiving Early Intervention services (EIP), Quest Students, Special with Disabilities (SWD), and students enrolled in the Flexible Learning Program (FLP) are pulled to a computer lab each morning to work on a web-based math program called ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces Program). All students participating in the ALEKS math program receive a math licenses.
- 24,000 Accelerated Reader tests taken
- Over 800 books added to the Media Center
- Recognize Hispanic Heritage Month
- Literacy Days - Poetry Recitation, Writing and Drama
- Student of the Month Recognition Program
Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

West Newton Elementary is striving to improve in all academic areas. We have listed our information in the previous sections.